

What Hath God Wrought: The Market Revolution of the 1800s



America Before the Market Revolution

- How did Americans move themselves and goods before the 1800s?
- How were most everyday objects made?
- How would this have affected American culture, society and economy?

The Transportation Revolution

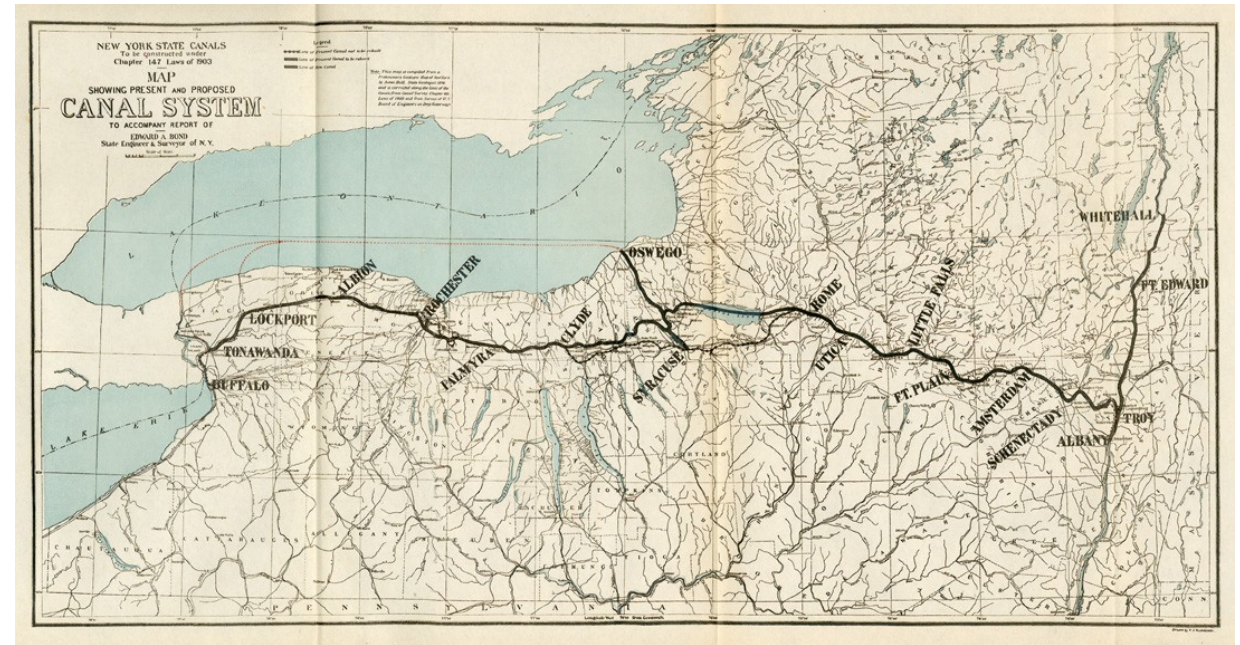
- In the early 1800s, a series of technological breakthroughs occurred that allowed more rapid transportation.
 - Steamboats
 - Canals
 - Railroads (mid-1800s)
- The breakthroughs were connected to the “industrial revolution” then occurring in the UK.



Roads and Canals, 1840

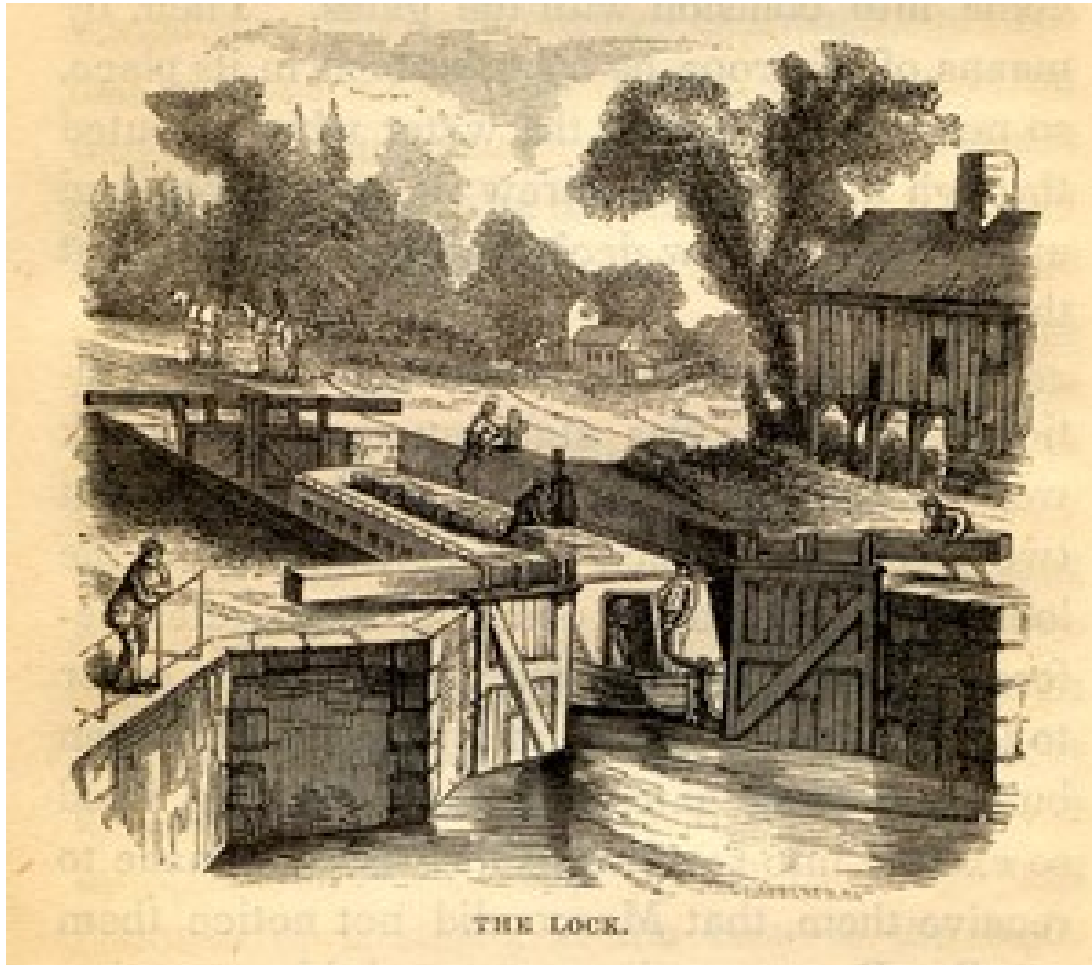
The Canal Revolution

- Canals might have been the most important factor in increasing trade.
 - Worked together with steamboats
- By 1837, 3,000 miles of canal had been constructed.
- Example: The Erie Canal
 - The earliest major canal project in the United States.
 - Built between 1817 and 1825.
 - Financed by the state of New York.
 - Ran from the Hudson River to the Great Lakes.
 - A technological triumph that consolidated New York City as America's economic capital.



Map of Erie Canal

The Canal Revolution

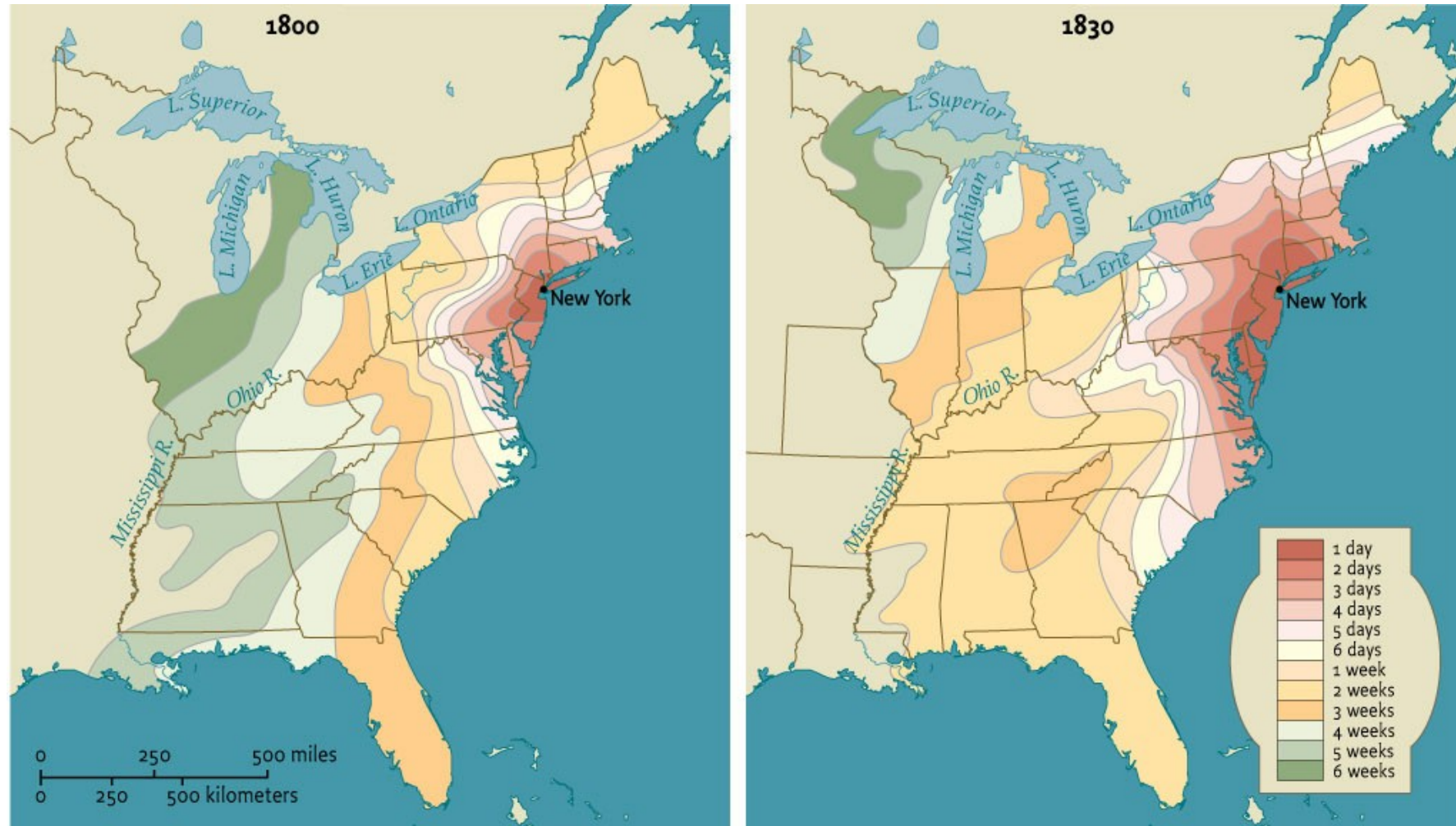


A Lock



An Overpass

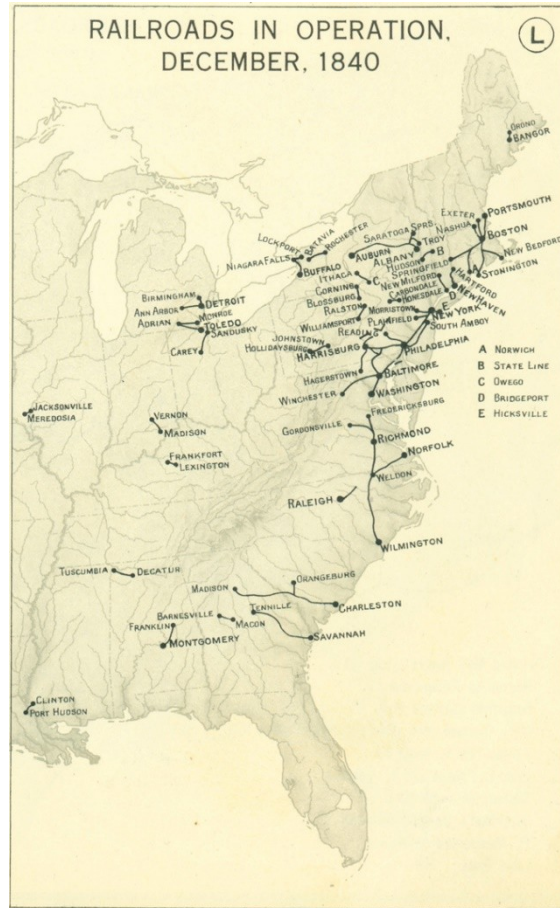
After the Transportation Revolution



The Railroad

- The first commercial railroads were built in the early 1800s.
 - By 1840, the US had 3,000 miles of railroad.
 - By 1860, the US had 30,000 miles.
 - A crucial element in the American Civil War
- Railroads provided the first form of cheap transportation that was not bound to water.

Growth of the Rail Network



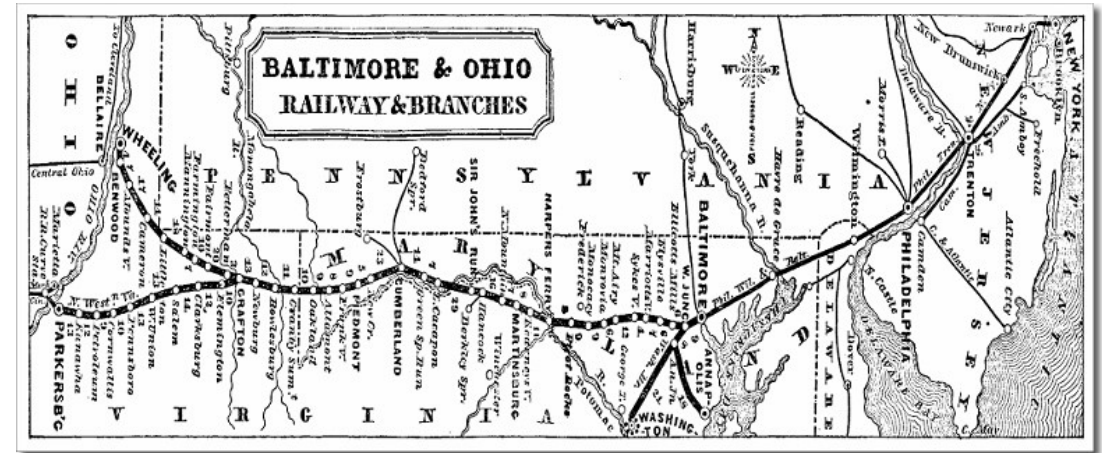
1840



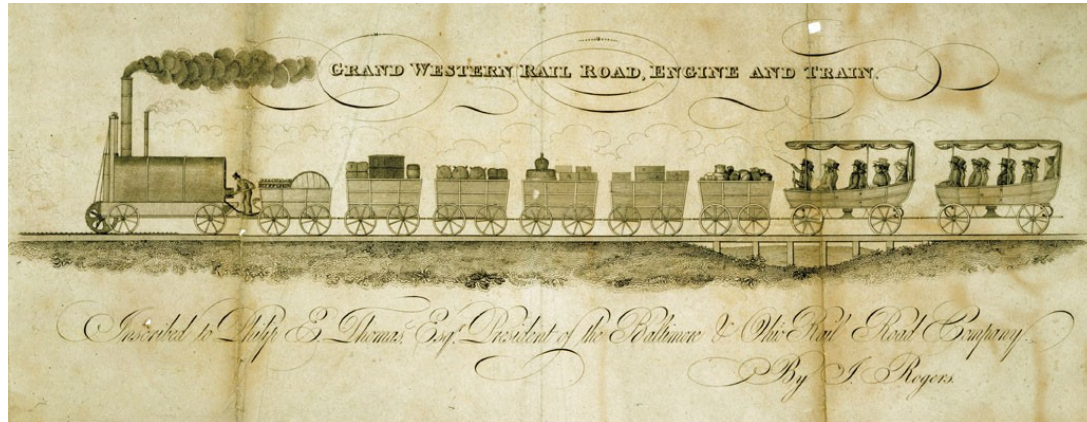
1860

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad

- The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
 - The first commercial railroad in the United States.
- Would connect Baltimore to the Ohio River.
- Would provide a faster alternative to the Erie Canal.
- Begun in 1828.
- Reached the Ohio River in 1855.
- Not very commercially successful.



Early Railroads

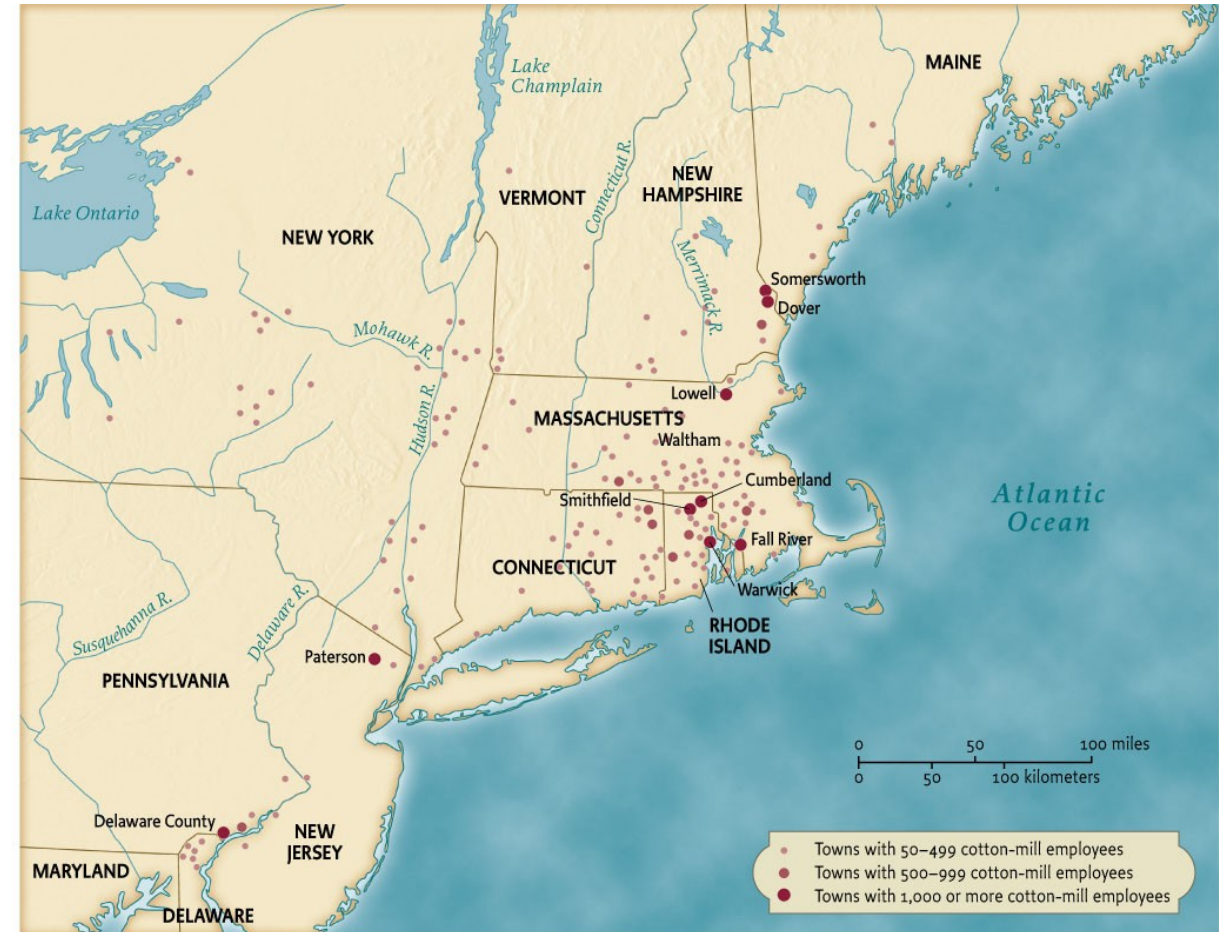


Effects of the Market Revolution

- Urbanization
 - The Decline of Skilled Labor
 - Mass immigration
 - Growing individualism
 - The Cult of Domesticity
 - The Second Great Awakening
- Note: This is the beginning of a long process that is still ongoing.

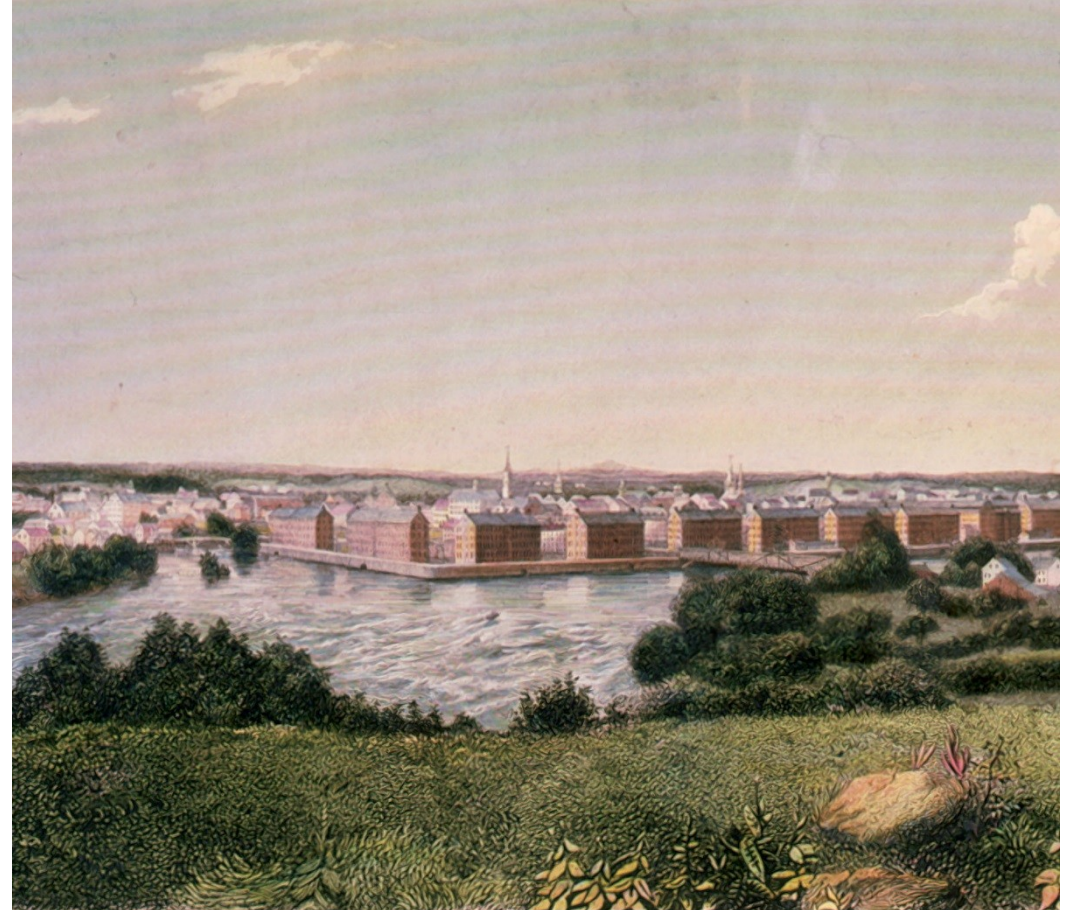
The First Industrial Revolution

- In the 1800s, Americans began to use machinery and rudimentary mass-production techniques to produce goods cheaply and rapidly using unskilled labor.
- These innovations were first developed in the United Kingdom in the mid-1700s.
- By the 1790s, some Americans were adopting these innovations.
 - Mostly in cotton textile mills
 - Mostly in New England



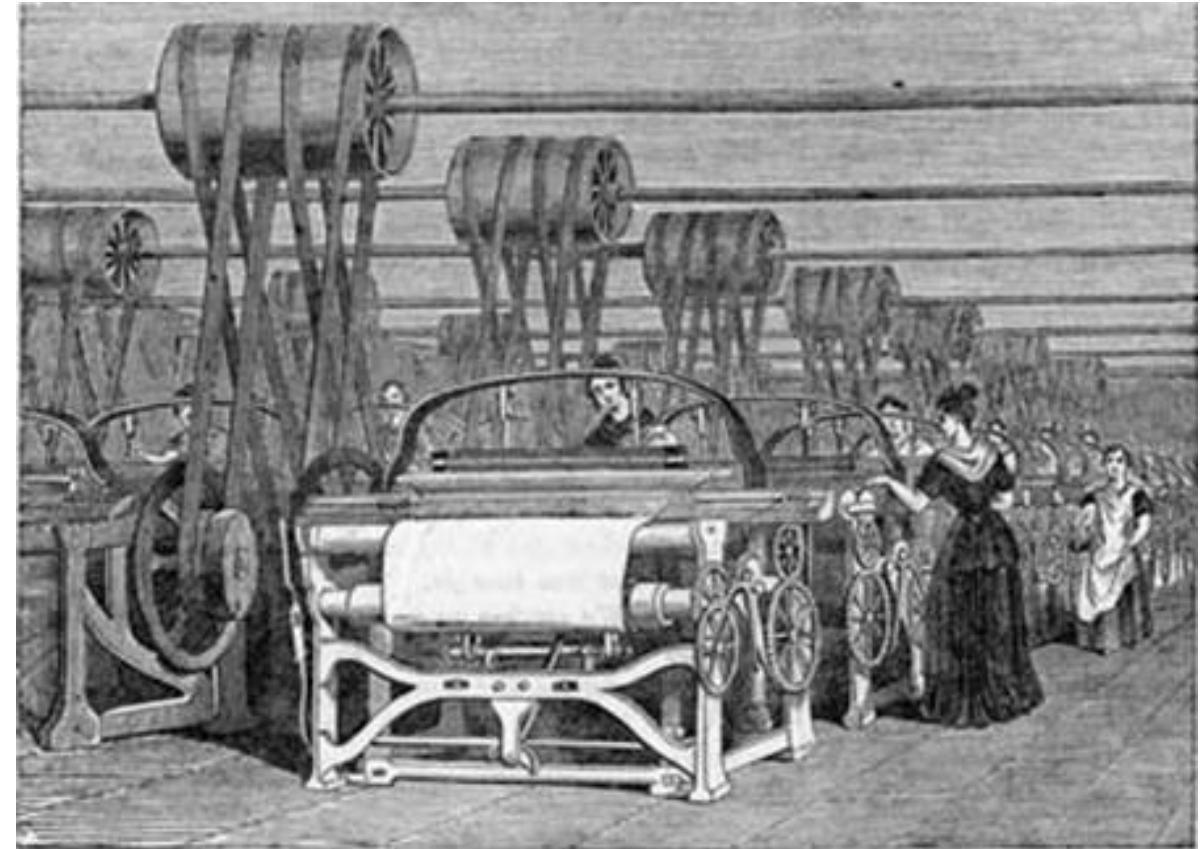
Lowell Factory Town

- An example of industrial organization during the First Industrial Revolution.
- Created by a group of Boston merchants in the 1820s.
- Planned as a center of modern textile production.
 - In the factories, raw cotton was spun into thread and then woven into cloth on water and steam-driven machines.
 - Clothing itself was still largely made at home or by skilled artisans (tailors).



Working in Early Lowell

- Life revolved around the factories.
- The factories mostly employed native-born female and child labor.
- The employers acted like “fathers” to their workers.
 - Workers’ lives were closely regimented.
 - Employers also tried to “better” their workers.
- The more paternalistic aspects of the factories declined over the mid-1800s.
- By the Civil War, most of the workers were immigrants.



INTERIOR OF A POWER-LOOM FACTORY.

Effects of the Industrial Revolution

- Time discipline
 - The separation of work time and leisure time
- Labor organizing
- Urbanization
- Urban class stratification and economic inequality
- During the early 1800s,
 - Factories mostly existed in New England.
 - Relatively few people worked in a factory.
 - Relatively few goods were produced in a factory.

Mass Immigration

- Until the 1920s, the United States had a *de facto* open-door policy for most immigrants.
- Immigrants poured into the United States after the market revolution.
 - Between 1790 and 1830, roughly 250,000 immigrants entered the United States.
 - Between 1840 and 1860, roughly 4 million entered the United States.
 - Most came from Ireland and Germany
 - Roughly 90% of immigrants went to the northern states
- Most came for economic opportunity



Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1855 by John Smith in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of N.Y.

THE PROPAGATION SOCIETY. MORE FREE THAN WELCOME.

For sale at N°2 Spruce St. N.Y.

340.

Deposited in Clerk's Office So. Dist. N.Y. July 19. 1855.

MICROFILMED

Cartoon Text

- Pope: "My friend we have concluded to take charge of your spiritual welfare, and your temporal estate, so that you need not be troubled with the care of them in future; we will say your prayers and spend your money, while you live, and bury you in the Potters Field, when you die. Kneel then! and kiss our big toe in token of submission."
- Brother Jonathan: "No you dont, Mr. Pope! your'e altogether too willing; but you cant put 'the mark of the Beast' on Americans."
- Young America: "You can neither coax, nor frighten our boys, Sir! we can take care of our own worldly affairs, and are determind to "Know nothing" but this book, to guide us in spiritual things."
- First bishop: "I cannot bear to see that boy, with that horrible book."
- Second bishop: "Only let us get a good foot hold on the soil, and we'll burn up those Books and elevate this Country to the Same degree of happiness and prosperity, to which we have brought Italy, Spain, Ireland and many other lands."
- Third bishop: "Sovereign Pontiff! say that if his friends, have any money, when he dies; they may purchase a hole, for him in my cemetery, at a fair price."
- Fourth bishop: "Go ahead Reverend Father; I'll hold our boat by this sprig of shamrock."

The Reaction to Immigration

- Many Americans found immigrants, in particular the Irish, threatening.
 - The Irish were
 - Seen as unfit for and a danger to liberty and freedom because of their Catholicism.
 - Blamed for crime, political corruption, and public drunkenness.
 - Accused of working for low wages that undercut native-born Americans' wages.
 - Often denigrated as defective.
 - Other immigrants were also met with varying degrees of scorn.
- This negative reaction became known as "nativism."



Anti-Immigrant Cartoon

The Know-Nothings

- During the 1840s, “nativism” became a local political movement.
- During the 1850s, a national, anti-immigrant party arose.
- The American, or Know-Nothing, Party
 - Argued for
 - The reservation of political offices for native-born Americans.
 - Resistance to the growth of the Catholic church.
 - The end of the spread of slavery into the west.
 - Was popular in much of the North.
 - Its one presidential candidate, in 1856, won nearly 22% of the popular vote.
 - Had few practical effects.

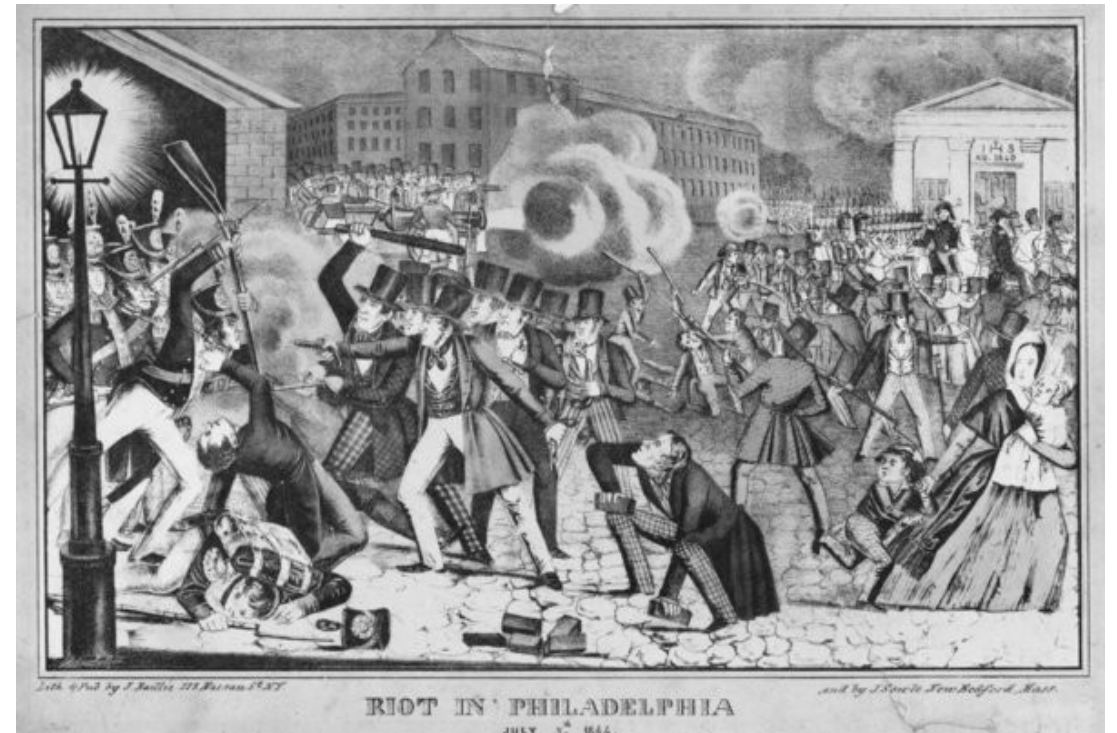


Image of Anti-Catholic Riots in Philadelphia in 1844